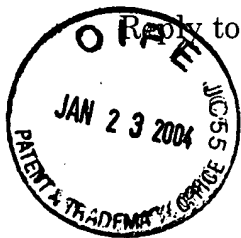


Application No. 09/517,977
Amendment dated January 23, 2004
Reply to Office Action of September 23, 2003



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#10/a
2.2.04
Walden

Application No.: 09/517,977
Applicant: Dean BOYD *et al.*
Filed: March 3, 2000
TC/A.U.: 3629
Examiner: Mr. Edward R. Cosimano

Confirmation No.: 5716

Attorney Docket No.: 82001-0312
Customer No.: 24633

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of **September 23, 2003**, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper;

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 4 of this paper;

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 17 of this paper and include an attached drawing sheets, and

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 18 of this paper.

Applicant submits that the present application now stands in condition for allowance and respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all claims in view of the following amendment and remarks.